

**CITY OF KANKAKEE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 19TH, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I would like to call the meeting to order. We will start with a prayer by Pastor Carl Randle, Sr. of Fair Haven Church of God in Christ.

PASTOR CARL RANDLE, SR: You all must go to church somewhere; you knew to stand. Would you all grab somebody by the hand please. Just grab somebody by the hand. You know I'm grateful, because I was born and reared in the City, educated in the City at KCC and all. We just thank God for growing in the City. Eternal God Our Father Almighty God, creator of all mankind. Thank you, God for our City. Thank you Lord, for Your blessing upon the City. We pray God that you would help us and that Your blessings continue to flow upon the City. God we pray that You give guidance and direction to our City leaders so that You will help them to make informed and intelligent and wise decisions for the best interest of our City. We pray God for Your collaboration because if there ever was a time we need collaboration and to work together the time is now. We pray God that we won't have our own agenda but that we will have an agenda of the City. Now, we pray God that this City will flourish like it once have; we had a flourishing City. You have caused things to go down and come back up, Lord help the City to come back up where it once was...we ask these things in divine favor. Amen

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Next we have the pledge allegiance and it will be led by TAYLOR ALBERTI, SIERRA ANDERSON, BREIA BARRY- WHITE, MELANIE CERNA, JOCELYNN CROWELL, KAE'LA JACKSON, TABETHA JONES, KESHAUNA PITTS, NAEONA THOMAS-HILL, LORYELLE ROBINSON, MONIQUE SEXTION, JENNIFER SOTELLO, LACI WALKER AND TAMIA WILBURN These are the Ladies OF THE KANKAKEE HIGH SCHOOL 2017-2018 GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL.

IN UNISON: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands, one

Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Moving on to Public Comments. Steve Emme. Please give your name and direct your comments to the Mayor. Comments are limited to five minutes.

MR. STEVE EMME:

Okay, my name is Steve Emme and I have had a business here in Kankakee for 44 years in the same location. I have a couple subjects here. The first one I would like to comment on is the Police Department and the Fire Department. I have to say for the last 10-12 years this is the best Police and Fire Department we have had in 44 years. The police get a lot of flack because they can't stop this and they can't stop that but they patrol so heavily. The one thing we don't have is a lot of law suits against the City because they have been out there using their batons, shooting, and doing things wildly. The Police do a great job. Same with the Fire Department, they get a lot of flak about ...they don't do anything...there is no fire...well that's because they are out here preventing the fires/ They are saving lives. The other subject I would like to get to is the proposed 2% tax increase. I am a car dealer and it would affect my business. I spoke with a lot of business people they called and wanted to know what I thought. I thought maybe I shouldn't be up here speaking because if it is what it takes to save the City of Kankakee in anyway, I think that we should do it but I have one question and my question is if this 2% is going to raise about 7 million dollars...and interest rates are as low as they have been in my life...what's going to happen when the interest rates go up...where are we going to go are we going to have more or increased higher sales tax? Interest rates will go up. That's all I have. Thank you Mayor. For allowing me to speak.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. I want you to stay tuned. There is good news for you as a car dealer and hopefully most of your questions will be answered after the presentation. Thank you... Roll Call.

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy.
ABSENT: Swanson
(13) Present (1) Absent

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Department Heads.

CLERK DUMAS: **PRESENT:** Dumas, Schuldt, Kubal, Power, Schiel, Piggush, Nelson, Bertrand, Schmitz, Croswell, Kohler , Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. Moving on to minutes of the City Council meeting March 5th, 2018 may I have a motion to approve the minutes?

ALD OSENGA: So move.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Osenga.

ALD CRAWFORD: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Crawford. Was that Alderman Crawford? Any corrections or additions? All in favor...aye.

COUNCIL: Aye.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTATION FROM HITCHCOCK DESIGN GROUP

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Same sign, minutes are approved. There are no petitions on the agenda. Moving on to Communications...we have to a presentation by Hitchcock Design Group and Mr. Hitchcock if you could step forward please.

MR. HITCHCOCK: Good Evening. I don't know if you have any introductory comments?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So, I sent an email out last Friday making you all aware that I had met with Mr. Hitchcock. We approved a proposal to develop the river. Some of the items that were listed in the original proposal did not need to be completed. So we have some cushion there of about \$80,000.00 I believe it is. So I asked him to...we had a

discussion about either returning that money or doing some additional work for the dollars that we have already expended. So Mr. Hitchcock prepared an amended contract and he will go ahead and speak with you regarding that proposal.

MR. HITCHCOCK:

Thank you Mayor. Good Evening Mayor and Council members. It's great to be back in front of you. You remember the world wind pace we were in last fall into December. We had a three part contract we completed most of the analysis and we got to the main pieces of that the last couple of months. We went through a preferred strategy that was used to create the ITEP grant application and got it submitted in time and it should be coming up here pretty soon. We should be finding out about that. We got that submitted in December. Around about December and early January we met with the Capital Team and we talked about where we were in the contract and a couple of those things were apparent. One is that when we wrote the proposal back in August, we anticipated doing some services an environmental analysis and hydraulic modeling. It turns out because of where we chose...the geographic location of the ITEP funded a portion of the project which is...it ended up going farther north than we thought and ended up triggering a couple of things. One was we didn't have to do any of the environmental analysis and then we also didn't have to do most of the hydraulic modeling which we thought was going to be required...turns out we did not have to do either. Which turned out to be a very good thing. So as the Mayor said, we could have left it at that but we are asking your careful consideration in our agreement that we shift the effort from those engineering operations to some additional planning. We think it is...to the project in fact as I explained to the Mayor when we met recently and the Capital Team earlier in the year, these are all services the we recommend being done as soon as possible. With the master plan completed this gives us an opportunity to jump start that process and actually do these services a little bit sooner. There are some minor things; some additional surveying, which Piggush Engineering needed to do to get that grant ready and some additional meetings and those are both pretty minor items. Some consequences are some preliminary development analysis. We left this out of the original agreement largely because we knew that the fee was going to be fairly high. We didn't want to push what

we thought the threshold...we didn't want to push that. The development analysis was the metric; the economic tools to be much more precise about the benefits that we think can derive from land development that is triggered by the river front improvement segment we are proposing. In other words...you have read the memo and it is kind of a circular reference if you will. The City makes investments in public improvements along the riverfront that increase land value that makes it a catalyst for development. As development comes in, it increases real estate taxes. With the TIF district those can be carved out and used to be... or however the riverfront needs...to be funded. It is a really terrific tool whereby the increase in real estate value helps to drive and support the public improvements which in turn creates value for real estate. When we did the presentation back in...I think it was early December, you recollect that we were tossing some ball park numbers around at that point we did not have the funds the way the scope was written to go into details. Now this gives us an opportunity to go into detail which we think is crucial because it will really help to substantiate the benefit of public improvement along with the river. Secondly, it will be a great to help tee up properties for potential development as we move forward with the process...The second preliminary economic analysis may sound like it's the same thing but it is actually quite different. This is more about the immediate and ongoing...simply doing public improvements...value in terms of construction jobs. The ongoing value...recently expect to see...of the improvements. Again, in December, we teased the Council a little bit with some...talking about what we saw as some very likely increases. Our consultant...was frankly very kind and we did some rough math on the back of the envelope, we didn't have all the analysis to back it up with great precision and this would give us the opportunity to do that it is about \$6800.00. Next is the strategy we should have put in the proposal from the get go and I wish that I had and I didn't. it was clear to me as we started and you will hear me say this over and over, that we think the riverfront can be the centerpiece of revitalization of the City of Kankakee and be sort of a brand in its own right. I would encourage you in comparison you might look up what's going on in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It's a little bigger town for sure but Fort Wayne...industrialized community turned to its riverfront for revitalization. They have a fantastic

riverfront brand edging they have carried all the way from the master plan stage, all the way through fund raising, all the way to communications and all through promotions and now they use that to rally around it and now they are just going gang busters. It's merely an example but we think what comes out of the brand strategy piece is a set of communication tools that we can use initially and the advocates of the riverfront can continue to use as time wears on. It will really help position the riverfront as the center of economic development in the City and that's about \$22,000.00. Then last but not least, this is something that we really wanted to put in the initial proposal and we chose not to but it's really vital particularly as we move into the...I know you are looking at the TIF district, I am not sure if it has been passed yet but its close I understand. As you move forward with TIF you want to make sure that all of the development that occurs within that district meets certain standards so that you are setting the bar high; you're keeping it high which creates investor confidence and helps promote additional investment. It creates the standard for everything from block size to setbacks, building heights...it was something that Cliff has asked for before he departed and whether he is here or not it is still absolutely necessary. Again, it will be one of the first things we recommend to tee u if we did our contract the way we anticipated. As we said it takes ...a little differently...we didn't need to do the hydraulic modeling, we didn't need to do the environmental assessments and as the Mayor said that saves about \$80,000.00. We are suggesting that that be diverted into these other four tasks and I think that's it. Schedule wise we will continue to work on finalizing a masterplan...while you consider this amendment because we think that all four of these will make ...result in the report tools that we give to you way more powerful and so we encourage that you support this amendment. I will be happy to answer any questions. I know that is a lot of material. I will be happy to answer any questions.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Crawford?

ALD CRAWFORD: How far out are we on hearing from the state on the grant?

MR. HITCHCOCK: I don't know. Neil...the next 30-60 days...

NEIL PIGGUSH: It should be in the next month...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Crawford, you have to hold the button down and talk...

ALD CRAWFORD: My next question is with us looking at passing this 2% sales tax and if it gets passed we are going to look like we are dropping our property tax down to...how do you feel about that in drawing new businesses at the riverfront?

MR. HITCHCOCK: That's always a challenging question. I don't pretend to be an expert on where the city sits with respect to the neighboring peer communities on the sales tax. I know it is a popular tool in many places to raise funds that go towards getting a more hospitable environment or visitors so it sounds very logical to me. Again, I am not looking at it in detail. The notion of property taxes being slightly less, I think maybe...for outside investors...maybe the quality of what they see invested along the river, that is what is going to drive their investment decisions. The idea that they can frankly make some money and create something of lasting value that is generally what drives investment decisions. Property taxes are of some interest but not huge.

ALD CRAWFORD: Okay. Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman O'Brien?

ALD O'BRIEN: Thank you Mayor. Are these proposed expenditures time sensitive or...spend this money then find out we didn't get the grant...

MR. HITCHCOCK: I am going to try not to answer your question like a consultant. The answer is they are not super time sensitive but we think they are really important and extremely helpful for us to ...contract to finish. That's not to say the earth is going to quit revolving if you were to eliminate one or all the components that we are adjusting tonight. What I would say is and I would really urge you to think carefully about this is as important as it would be to get the ITEP grant that would be great for all of us. It is not vital for the riverfront to move forward. The riverfront improvements are going to be funded through a variety of mechanisms and the ITEP grant is only one piece of that so I guess what I am trying to say is, they are not really connected necessarily. The ITEP grant and these actions

that we strongly encourage the City to do weather you get the ITEP grant funding or part of it. I hope that is clear.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Tall?

ALD TALL: Yes. Mr. Hitchcock, can you send a copy out to all the Alderman?

MR. HITCHCOCK: I sent it off to the Capital Team, I don't know what was distributed to the Aldermen. Sorry...if I had multiple copies I would hand them out.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Any other questions? Alderman Curtis?

ALD CURTIS: You mentioned the four amendments. Are they equal to the \$80,000.00 or is there a slight increase or decrease or...

MR. HITCHCOCK: Yes, great question. If you don't have the paperwork it is not particularly...the original agreement is \$385,000.00. I will rattle these off in the order that they come up on the amendment. Expanding to graphic survey limits is \$11,090.00. We deleted 100 percent of the environmental analysis which is \$63,360.00. We reduced the hydraulic modeling component which was \$22,770.00 so these last two are additions. Then for specific items that we referenced the development analysis is \$23,900.00. The physical impact assessment is \$6,800.00. The brand strategy is \$22,000.00 and the planning guidelines are \$19,000.00 and we have received \$3000.00 in additional meetings...have already done and ones we have coming in the future. There is an overall reduction if you do the math really fast of \$340.00 less than what the original contract was.

ALD O'BRIEN: Fairly equal.

MR. HITCHCOCK: It's pretty much a wash.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I wanted to make sure everybody is comfortable. That was an oversight on my part Alderman Tall. So I will follow up and send the amendment to you all so you have a chance to look at it. It's a significant amount of money, we are not spending more money but just reallocating money that we approved previously but I want everybody to be comfortable so I will send the amendment copy out

this week and then we will put it on the agenda for approval. Does that sound good to everybody? Thank you Mr. Hitchcock. Did you have anything else?

MR. HITCHCOCK:

I just wanted mention in terms of the impact on time what we are planning to do is we are planning to press forward as soon as we get the approval to do so. We have a final presentation, tentatively scheduled for Council towards the end of May. Again, time sensitive...sooner is better...it's not lie it is a...last fall we were really in a horse race to get things in by December 1st. It's not quite as pressing this time around. Thank you very much.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. I will go ahead and refer it to Economic Development Committee. Yes Alderman Curtis? Don't forget to hold your button.

ALD CURTIS:

Since Economic Development is not meeting next week I understand...I am not trying to defer it but I am just trying to see if you want it...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I really want it to be Economic Development...

ALD CURTIS:

Okay.

COMED LED STREET LIGHT CONVERSION 2018

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you. I am going to skip to item C and have Pete to give us a very brief update regarding our Com Ed LED Street Light Conversion 2018 and I just want to thank Pete and his efforts...we are constantly looking for ways to be more efficient and save the City money and resources.

PETE SCHIEL:

Mayor Thank you. As you know, we are always attempting to conserve energy to formulate ways to save financial resources in the City of Kankakee. We work very, very, closely with Com Ed for years. Sometimes they don't always like us because we are finding ways to save money; getting refunds back. But this is a round of lighting they are willing to go ahead and update street lights on wooden poles within the community and transforming those to LED's with no capital expense to the City of Kankakee. We are looking at upgrading 985 poles here in the City. We are starting at the core of the City and

moving our way out. In your packet you can kind of see the area that we are focusing on. Once this is completed, we will anticipate about a \$91,033.41 savings in energy per year. Not only are we focusing on this project but in May of 2017 we ended up getting another that relamped 143 of our City poles...on City metal poles and we are currently working also on another project to relamp all of the historical lights in the upper and lower Riverview which is 262. So, overall within this last year our overall relamping to LED's is right around 1390 LED's that we have upgraded and it's approximately 60-70 percent reduction in energy cost.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Pete. Any questions from the Council?
Okay...

ALD O'BRIEN: Mayor, I have a question.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman O'Brien?

ALD O'BRIEN: Pete, do you know what the timing is?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Can you talk in the mic Alderman O'Brien?

ALD O'BRIEN: Do you know what the timing is?

PETE SCHIEL: Yes. The project that we finished downtown included 143 lights have been completed. We are patiently waiting for ComEd to make those modifications. Lisa had mentioned that she was going to go ahead and send Mayor and I a list for a timeline but we have not received that yet. The historical lighting in the upper and lower levels of Riverview the 262 fixtures have been ordered we are just waiting on the arrival and our team will start doing the implementation as soon as possible.

KANKAKEE AREA JAYCEES IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HOST THEIR "JAYCEES KANKAKEE DAY CELEBRATION", AT THE FARMERS MARKET PARKING LOT ON THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018, FROM 2:00 P.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M.

KC-CASA (KANKAKEE COUNTY CENTER AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT) IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO CONDUCT THEIR ANNUAL "WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES" ON FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018, BEGINNING AT 12:00 NOON UNTIL 12:45 P.M. AT THE KANKAKEE VALLEY PARK DISTRICT RECREATION CENTER, 150 NORTH INDIANA AVENUE

FORTITUDE & REAL LIFE CHURCH IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HOST THEIR “2018 WALK FOR THE HOMELESS” ON SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018, FROM 8:30 A.M. UNTIL 11:00 A.M.

WILL-GRUNDY COUNTIES BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL AND KANKAKEE/IROQUOIS COUNTIES BUILDING TRADES OF THE AFL-CIO IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HOST THEIR ANNUAL DAD’S DAY TAG DAY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I am going to ask if there are no objections to combine Items D, E, F,G on the agenda and those pertain to several entities requesting permission to host a Kankakee Jaycee celebration; KCCASA requesting permission for their annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes; Fortitude & Real Life Church requesting permission to host their 2018 Walk for the Homeless; and Will Grundy County is requesting permission to host an annual Dad’s Day Tag Day. So if there are no objections may I have a motion to approve?

ALD OSENGA: So move

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderman Osenga.

ALD FAFORD: Second.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Faford. Any discussion? All in favor...

COUNCIL: Aye.

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE REDUCTION TO PROPERTY TAXES AND THE IMPOSITION OF A HOME RULE RETAILERS’ OCCUPATION TAX AND A HOME RULE SERVICE OCCUPATION TAX

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign...motion carries. Now we will move on to the presentation regarding the reduction of property taxes and the imposition of the home rule retailers’ occupation tax and home rule service occupation tax. Alderman Curtis is going to come up. Okay, we are going to go ahead and get started with the presentation. The presentation is about 20 minutes. Most questions that you probably have will be answered. I want to take the time to make a correction. The journal published that this was Alderman Chris Curtis’ proposal and I would like to state that that is incorrect. The records should reflect that it is

the entire City Council came together to work on this proposal. I am very proud of the Council for working with me, working with Elizabeth Kubal our Comptroller and Pat in Legal. It was literally a team effort. We have had several meetings over the month with everyone being able to provide input, ideas and concerns that they have had. I believe we did a good job coming to on this proposal. Alderman Curtis put a Power Point together and we are very grateful for that. We have been on the road together since last week this is our 4th or 5th...

ALD CURTIS:

6th

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Our 6th presentation. So, we will go ahead and get started. One of the biggest things that everybody on the Council including myself, hear about is people are concerned about the City of Kankakee property taxes. We know we cannot continue on the path we are on. Choosing to do nothing is still choosing. So, we have come together choosing to do something. To address this...our two goals are to address the burden of property taxes for the residence and also to spirt economic development. So, I will go ahead and turn it over to Alderman Curtis.

ALD CURTIS:

Thank you Mayor. We are going to go through this slide show...pardon me if we go a little quick it does take about 25 minutes but we will try to get through it pretty quickly. Basically as the Mayor said, when you have higher tax rates do to property value being suppressed, high real estate tax in...development and things of that nature is very difficult when...communities have a lessor tax rate that developer do look at. We are trying to bring new residents in Kankakee and we will kind of get into that because buying homes is a factor that competes with our neighbor's. Our accomplishment we are trying to do is reduce the City's tax rate and we want to equalize the assess values in Kankakee. Before the bubble burst of 2008, and hopefully our Comptroller will correct me if I am off on my numbers.... We have an EAV of about 290 million. I think we fell below 200 million and for the first time; positive news it increased about 204 million. We are at least heading in the right direction now. Think about that, ten years ago we lost 90 million in property values. If you used an assessment of one third and you use a...it's about 3 million dollars to the City of Kankakee. That is significant. Not just Kankakee it hit a lot of areas but we

really got hit. So we are hoping to raise that, hoping to increase homeownership and we are also looking for ways to diversify City income. We have had to make some hard decisions like the Vehicle sticker fee and public safety tax. That hit every resident in in the City of Kankakee. Hopefully we can get contributions from outside income...football games...that work in Kankakee but live across the border in Indiana. This major thing is interesting this is a comparison, comparing the City of Kankakee. Kankakee average tax rate is about 17.25 our neighbor Bradley is about 9, Bourbonnais is just below 9 at about 8.6 and Manteno is about 10.1. Think about those numbers for a second, our competition is about half, not quite half but close to it...at 8.5 for Kankakee it is good for us. I want everybody to see that CSL is doing outstanding things that helps Kankakee by providing jobs but as a City of Kankakee Alderman, Mayor and Council, you also want to do what's best to help the residents. I put some apples to apples comparisons here. I compared Bradley, Manteno and Bourbonnais. Bradley has a Walmart very similar to Kankakee theirs is 217 thousand feet. They pay \$360,000.00 in taxes but to make it apples to apples I put per square foot. That way building and size we are comparing true figures here. Taxes are \$1.65 at the Bradley Walmart. If you go to the next slide, the Kankakee Walmart is a little smaller at 196 thousand square feet but their tax bill is \$620,000.00 or \$3.16 per foot. Significant difference there. Regarding industrial, I took a comparison of Manteno rate at the interchange, Manteno....facility at the interchange 33 thousand square feet on five acres and theirs is a \$1 per square foot. Eastgate Industrial Park in Kankakee, 32 thousand square foot industrial building...same functional buildings right at the interchange \$2.12 more than double the tax rate for industrial building. I used offices in comparison to Bourbonnais. Office building of Heritage Drive is a \$1.25 per square foot. Office building in downtown Kankakee two story office building a little larger \$3.10 per square foot. Just a little side note here, you will see the tax rate at 19 that's because they assess themselves at 2 percent so it's a little higher than 17 but it's still more than double compare to our competing neighbor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Can you tell them why they assess themselves at 2 percent?

ALD CURTIS:

Yeah, real quick. The downtown...you will see things like the sidewalk, farmer's market, the rope lighting. All the business owners decided to assess themselves at 2 percent for improvements to downtown Kankakee. So we are going to talk about where we are at today. I will let the Mayor go ahead and talk about this.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Okay, we have done several of these presentations and we have had people ask us is our Police and Fire Department being greedy? No they are not. We just heard Mr. Emme commend our Police and Fire, we have excellent Police and Fire in the City and they have earned their pensions. Several Administrations ago, many, many, many, many years ago, pension were not being paid into correctly. So for example we owe \$300,000.00 to pension, maybe a payment of \$100,000.00 was only paid so when you think about it like a credit card and you charge on your credit card and you only make the minimum payment it's going to keep accumulating and it takes forever to pay it off. So I want to be very clear that these pensions are owed to our first responders to serve and protect us every day. Number one. Number two, we are required by law. The employee's sued the City of Kankakee because this issue has been going on for years and they were worried about their pension being able to rely on them when they retire. So they took the City to court and there is a statue now that we have to fund at a certain level. We hire a...every year to give us that amount that we have to fund so that's where we are right now. So, not only do we have to do this because it's the right thing to do but because we are also legally obligated.

ALD CURTIS:

So if you see in our current fiscal year...we levied \$5.6 million for our pension. So if you look at our overall budget it's about \$24 million and \$5.6 million of that is required for the Police and Fire pension alone. If you look last year in December we levied for tax bill and that raised it about \$550,000.00 so it's going to be a little over \$6.1 million in the upcoming year. That will be continuing over the next five years from what we understand. It may be off a little bit because we do have some upcoming retirees...but if you look at the pension it has tripled in the last ten years. In 2007 the City levied \$2.5 million versus 6.1 million that we levied...our pension in 2007 was .9 less than 1 and now it is 3.2. Now I want to talk about real quick here is on your real estate taxes that you get, there

are three lines for the City of Kankakee: the general operating fund, the pension line item and then the library line item. We are dealing with the pension line item with this proposal. So what are we looking to do, we would like to raise the sales tax from 1.0 to the City of Kankakee to 3.0 right now it is 6.25. Five percent goes to the state, one percent goes to the City and a quarter goes to the County. We can now make our sales tax go from 6.25 to 8.25. Exemptions on that will be: groceries, medical, and vehicle purchases....lot of other cities do very similar things...basically food and medical. Those are needs people have to have that...grocery is at 1 percent and medical is a zero. So we will...vehicle sales...thats a large purchase it was a tough decision for us to look at. Purchasing a \$15,000.00-\$20,000.00 car that is significant. We are finding that most other cities are like us and exempt that. That came up through discussion with all the Aldermen and the mentioned that they want that to be a part of it. So goods will be purchased at 8.25 and that's a 66.6 increase to our sales tax roughly two thirds of that will have an ordinance that mandates that money...goes to the Police and Fire line item. A lot of people have asked us, what are you going to do with that '47 million and I will let the Mayor talk a little bit about that.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So as Alderman Curtis stated, we will go up to 8.25 percent. I you look at...I don't know if you can see that but Kankakee is at 6.25% right now. We compared some other municipalities in the state and Bloomington is at 8.75, Peoria is at 9, Champaign at 9, Springfield at 8.5, Decatur 9.25, Orland Park at 9.75, Danville 9.25, Naperville is at 7.75 and they just increased I think about a week ago. So as previously stated, 5 percent goes to the state, 1 percent to the City and .25 to the County so this would increase our portion to the City.

ALD CURTIS: So currently we are bringing in a little over 3.7 million dollars in sales tax revenue to the City of Kankakee but the increase of the 2 percent that will bring in an addition of 7.44 million to the City of Kankakee. Now we have taken in some things trying to be conservative. That brings in an extra 1.3 million dollars above and beyond the 1.6 that we need but we are looking at some factors here. Right now our last budget had Ultra Foods in there which brought in about \$200,000.00 to the City of Kankakee. We hope and we expect that it will be back filled at some point but to be

very conservative we planned not to count on that \$200,000.00 so if something shows up that's gravy to us and will be good for the future. The State of Illinois charges a 2 percent fee on any additional revenue...so they are going to ask for 2 percent there and that number is about \$150,000.00 and I will let the Mayor talk about that but we do have to pay that 2 percent to Springfield...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We just want you all to know this is not the only thing we are proposing to address this but this is the first strategy. We talked about several strategies. So the Illinois Municipal Lead is the advocacy organization in the State that represents all the Municipalities. This is the particular item number 2 where the 2 percent fee is on that policy to lobby legislatures to ...1 percent. If that happens we will save about an additional \$75,000.00 again we want to be conservative and make sure we take in account everything if this doesn't happen.

ALD CURTIS: Additionally if you remember the reason the City of Kankakee was at 6.25 is because we had those sales tax shares that brought in about 3-4 million dollars to Kankakee. When the State changed their rules we no longer have those sales tax agreements. But we do have a couple of offices that are still in the City of Kankakee they are a fixture source here and they bring revenue through those agreements in to us. That is about \$80,000.00 to the City of Kankakee. We don't expect them to leave they have not said they will leave but again we are trying to be conservative raising our tax rate from 6.25 ...is a possibility...we have talked about there is a possibility that shoppers may not shop in the beginning and say I am just not going to pay that extra 2 percent to Kankakee I'm going to move out to somewhere else. We have all talked about this, it's been a very deep concern of ours. Part of our feelings...mine in particular her now in this society it might happen in the beginning but people will get back to their traditional habits and continue to do the shopping they have done all along...That is why we will talk about that and trim some of that for the future. What will we do with that extra \$800,000.00 we will bring in in year one. We have set it up that basically...it will fund 100 percent the levy for the Police and Fire Pension...the additional money will then go to a liability the City of Kankakee has on its pension. An example that was given to me by the Comptroller, Mrs. Kubal is we made levy for 5.6 million in

pension but not everyone pays their real estate tax bill....the City is still obligated to pay that amount. Right now on our books we have a little bit under 1 million dollars that is owed from the City. So the first step with excess goes to eliminate that million dollars, I believe we can accomplish that in the first two years. That gets that off our books and it when the City goes out for bonding it just makes it look even better financial stable position. The third thing that would happen is any additional money from there would go to fund the Police and Fire's under funding. Right now the fire department is at about 19 percent and I believe the police is at 33 percent. Now we have to give that 50/50 when we allocate to do that but the goal is that money will go in and help correct how we are underfunded and hopefully change the actual numbers going forward in the future and we don't have to levy quite as much as we do. I we can get to 50 that would be phenomenal but right now we are just trying to get to where we can get to. So I want to give an analysis real quick. A home that has a tax bill of \$5244.00 the current tax rate on it is 17.1 the City's portion of that tax bill is \$2,333.00. If we take that pension line item and reduce it down to 0.0 then that pension liability is now funded through the sales tax on the back of the property owners. The new tax for that home would be 13.8 percent the City's new portion is now \$1300.00 versus \$2300.00 over \$1000.00 in savings. We can't control the Park District, the Community College...they are their own entities but you would save 43 percent savings in the City's portion and 20 percent overall on your tax bill. That is significant when you are writing that check in June and September you are going to notice that. There is a sheet here that no one can read but you all have it in your hand because the question is what does this mean to me. So if you look at that sheet, you have \$50,000.00 of property value is, not the assessment but what your property value is. We put the three exemptions that are currently on there so most people will either get a homestead, some people will get the senior or disability...there are several other exemptions but we tried to do the three main ones. If you have a home valued at \$100,000.00 and you are living there you get an exemption of \$6,000.00 ...your current tax bill is in the range of \$4700.00 and your new tax bill after this will be \$3800.00a savings of almost \$900.00 annually that is significant. You can take this and figure out where your home is...down at the bottom corner you will see there is a

\$500,000.00 line item we did that for business because they are not getting any exemptions they better not be but if you have a property of 1 million dollars times it by two....annual savings....that is significant to an industry like Harland Harvest, Valspar, and any small business...so the positive is we are going to save twenty percent on your real estate tax bill. We are also going to...property valued at \$100,000.00 in order to lose money on this deal you would have to purchase over \$50,000.00 worth of hard goods in the City of Kankakee, annually and that's just in the City...a lot of us like Target and we have to go to Bradley to get to Target. We may like to eat at Sammy's Pizza in Manteno, so we go up to Manteno and have Pizza up there. The reality is that is \$50,000.00 annually you would have to spend and not have any money as an end result. The negative is increasing the cost of the goods purchased in the City of Kankakee. The average American currently spends about \$12,665.00 annually on General merchandise from their annual income and we got that from the 2016 ...statistics. Based on that Kankakee has an average household income of \$32,... and will spend about \$7200.00 annually on hard goods that they are purchasing. These aren't things like your mortgages, not things like your insurance, or contribution to your 401K, or the groceries you buy or things of that nature. So based on that a Kankakee resident will pay approximately \$145...annually on purchasing things...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So samples of what the sales tax increase will cost ...on a cup of coffee if you went to Dunkin Donuts you pay \$2.09 today that increase will be .04 cents. On a soccer ball at Walmart \$9.97 it will go up .17 cents additional on sales tax. A pair of jeans for \$25.00 an additional .44 cents. When you get into some of the bigger items like a 48 inch screen TV for \$348.00 you can anticipate paying an additional \$6.09. A refrigerator that is approximately \$800.00 an additional \$13.98. Of course the bigger items you are not purchasing every year.

ALD CURTIS: So what's the end result when we are all said and done with this...sales tax increase will be shared by the City of Kankakee residents with nonresidents. So it is not 100 on the back of our residents. The overall net savings for the property owner in the City of Kankakee and I am using a homeowner would be anywhere between \$200-\$900 if you have a home value between \$50,000.00 and \$150,000.00.

That's net what you are going to save on your real estate taxes and what you are going to pay on new purchases you are going to save ...annually that's significant and you are going to notice that at the bottom line. You are going to reduce your property tax bill by 20 percent. That is one of those factors I keep harping on that because I think it's a big deal and I will get into why that is. Again we went up 2 percent to fund the Fire pension and I want to stress again it is not on groceries, not on medicine and it is not on vehicles. This is the two big things we are thinking: by reducing property by ...percent it is our opinion that we are going to make our area more attractive to home owners...a lot of people love homes in Kankakee, it's a beautiful home I love it for \$95,000.00, I love it. But they walk through and say that the tax bill is outrageous. Then they sit there and think that the home in Bradley is more attractive...they don't want to pay those taxes. By reducing it, we think it makes us very attractive now because we are competing with our neighbors, we have a closer gap. The other thing we anticipate is the EAV...if you have a home today that is worth \$110,000.00 and your tax bill is reduced by 20%. There is a good chance that within a year that house can ...just because it is more attractive people will be looking at homes in Kankakee. We have had a lot of other questions if I am a renter what does this mean to me? We have seen rents dramatically climb just like the pension as and in the last 10 years you have seen two bedrooms go from \$550...to \$800 or \$850 for a two bedroom. The landlords are in business they are just passing the expense onto the renters so when their taxes go up every year they are just raising the rent...we are hoping that maybe they won't increase that rent by 20 percent...slows down and stabilizes. We are also hoping that landlord's see that they are getting substantial savings. They could put the money in their pockets or maybe they will say I have been meaning to get that roof fixed, meaning to get new windows, or I been meaning to paint that house for a while. Maybe they will reinvest that money into the property that will help raise or EAV's also. If you are a small business owner and you own your property it's going to work out for you very well. Small business that is a...property can save nearly \$1650.00 on their real estate taxes. That business will have to have a ...in sales of \$82,000.00 annually to lose money in this deal. Again I think, in our culture most people will continue with their shopping trends. Just some factors...we

want to be more in line with our neighbor as far as tax rate. If we are down... I am pretty confident that Bradley, Bourbonnais, and Manteno that their tax rates are climbing. They use to be down at 8 and 9...I wouldn't be shocked if they are around 10-11. From 40 percent down to 10 percent....that's a big deal when people are shopping in Kankakee for new developments or expansions or things of that nature. I will let the Mayor talk about this. She mentioned it briefly this is one thing we are focusing on right now but there are a lot of other things...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We are looking for several strategies, for example: My Executive Assistant Carolyn is here tonight and on her desk she has a copy machine. She gets up and walks two feet away there is another one machine. Just little things like that. Elizabeth and I and Carolyn have been working in HR, look at how we can be more efficient. We also have considered leasing for our cars. We spend about \$150,000.00 per year to buy new police cars. I think we get about five. We also have a lot of maintenance cost...we are looking at that now through a leasing program...those are some of the things we are looking at.

ALD CURTIS: This is the 6th time we have presented this and we are presenting it again tomorrow morning at the Library at 6:30 on the fourth floor. But why are we acting now? Well it was brought to our attention that we have to notify the State of Illinois by April 1st if we want to partake in the sales tax increase. If we miss the April 1st deadline the next time we can act is October 1st. The problem with that is our Comptroller needs to see the trend. Sales tax will affect July 1st that will give us July, August, September and October to have reported by December to see what we have to levy for the upcoming year. You will see this on your tax bill in 2019. There is nothing we can do about the one coming out in about 60 days that is tax bill 20017 payable in 2018. If we waited beyond April 1st we couldn't do anything to your tax bill until 2020. We all want to see things happen quickly...The end result I want to say if we don't do anything we are just continuing to come to meetings twice a month...we can guarantee your tax rate in 2020 would be close to 20 if not over...to do nothing will just further the gap...they gap will stay there and it is not something that is positive. We will continue to have struggles with home construction...this isn't a perfect plan we thought about this hard. There are some

people that benefit more than others... but when it's all said and done we are giving real property...all we here is high taxes, high taxes, high taxes...this is the solution that we have to get give back to the residents and still fulfill our obligation to police and fire pension fund.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So again, I want to thank everybody for your attention tonight. Alderman Baron is our budget chair and I want to thank you for your leadership, I want to thank everybody for providing input and expressing their concerns. Again, thank you Alderman Curtis, your expertise in real estate has been very valuable to us and thank you for putting together the Power Point.

ALD CURTIS: I will stick around afterwards for questions. All our other presentations had questions and answers. We will stay around tomorrow night as well...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So another presentation at 6:30P.M. tomorrow night at the Library on the 4th floor. Please encourage your neighbors, friends, other residents, business owners to go out. I will say our last budget meeting was very well attended 12 of our 14 Aldermen and Alderwomen were present in addition to business owners, community members and other folks. I encourage you to have other people come out. I believe the Library will record tomorrow's session so that will be available as well. Next Monday on the 26th we are having a Special meeting and we will at that time address the ordinance and pass it...the City of Kankakee is considered home rule status....the state defines home rule status as any municipality that have a population of 25,000 or more so we can set our own laws and ordinances. Thank you all. Any City Council members have any questions before I move on? We will have standing committee reports...Public Safety for Tuesday March 6th, 2018. Alderman Baron? I'm sorry, Public Safety, Alderman Brown?

STANDING COMMITTEES

PUBLIC SAFETY – TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

ALD BROWN: Thank you Mayor. I think the Public Safety report was already given by the gentlemen under Public Comments. So I will just elaborate on a couple of things. I think you see the budget and the bills which are the most important

things. Police Department overtime is under control and the budget is 80 percent at the 85-90 percent point. We are within budget. The Fire Department is within budget except the overtime is a little bit higher. All of that is listed in the report....

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Faford?

ALD FAFORD: I would like to point out that I am not a department head and I was not present at that meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE– WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: On the minute Alderman Brown, yes it does say that Alderman Brown. He promoted you Alderman Faford. Moving on to the Budget Committee Alderman Baron...

ALD BARON: Well, you just saw the Budget Committee meeting. We won't go through that presentation. I believe the Budget Committee meeting, as far as, meetings go it was a landmark. It was incredibly well attended and from what I can tell, it was the consensus that this was a good plan. In fact, going into discussion was the increase in sales tax at 1.75% and talking about doing this one time and one time only. An incredible agreement was reached as far as I can see that 2% would be appropriate. That took up the bulk of the meeting. The review of the City's current position was reviewed and I refer you to the minutes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS APPROVAL OF BILLS - \$ 136,322.62

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman Baron. Moving on to the Report of Officers. May I have a motion to approve the bills?

ALD FAFORD: Yes, I move that we approve the report of officers, place the money in the proper accounts and pay the bills in the amount of \$136,322.62...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderman Faford.

ALD TALL: Second the motion.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Tall. Any Discussion? Roll Call Please...

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall (Aye but I am going to abstain on check #2797) , Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(13) Ayes (0) Nays

ALD BARON: Mayor?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Baron?

ALD BARON: I need to abstain on the same line item as Alderwoman Gall.

**NEW BUSINESS
FIRST READING**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 32, SECTION 231 ENTITLED "HANDICAPPED PARKING" OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF KANKAKEE
RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 2012-27: ESTABLISHING A HANDICAPPED PARKING AT 436 SOUTH FOURTH AVENUE**

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. There are no items under unfinished business. We will move on to new business. Item A is an ordinance amending Chapter 32, Section 231 entitled Handicapped parking of the Municipal Code of the City of Kankakee rescinding ordinance No. 2012-27: establishing a handicap parking at 436 South Fourth Avenue. May I have a motion to suspend the rules?

ALD LEWIS: So move Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Lewis.

ALD TALL: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Tall. Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(13) Ayes (0) Nays

SECOND READING

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. May I have a motion to place on final passage?

ALD LEWIS: So move Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned by Alderwoman Lewis.

ALD TALL: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Tall. Any discussions? Roll Call

CLERK DUMAS: **AYES:** Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis, Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall, Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(13) Ayes (0) Nays

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT THE GIFT AS A DONATION OF THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 1905 EAST COURT STREET, KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. Item B is a recommendation to accept the gift as a donation of the property commonly known as 1905 East Court Street, Kankakee. I will defer to Pat Power Legal.

PAT POWER: The last time this came up there was an issue whether we had done our due diligence on that particular piece of property. This is the vacant lot located immediately West of the old Mary Crest Bowling Alley. There was a fire there it burnt down and the owner was clearly negligent so the City had to step in and front the cost of the demolishing the building. It was done on an emergency basis. Which means we did not get the priority ...it would have been a very lengthy process. There was a reason for that there was a safety issue. We did lien the property holder the problem with not going through the long process is the owner foreclosed the mortgage and it eliminated our lien as a result. The new owner is looking at possibly donating this property to the City. The importance is we have phase 1 and 2 studies...Thanks to our new planner Frank Kohler. He checked with the state and we do have both 1 and phase 2 done for that lot so that will not be problematical. If you want to accept this as a

donation it goes off the tax roll. However it is a vacant lot and its value is probably not be significant. The decision you want to make is whether or not you want to accept this as a donation...we already own the bowling alley...that will give us two lots in that four lot section. If you are interested...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman O'Brien, I just want to make sure you got your questions answered...

ALD O'BRIEN: Yes, I want to inquire about the environmental condition and Attorney Power addressed that. I do have one additional question. Is this resolution to accept it? Is there already an offer or will we ultimately have to vote again...

PAT POWER: They have not made a decision...they are feeling us out to see if we will be willing to accept... but you are absolutely correct.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: I think Kris Schmitz is trying to give some input.

KRIS SCHMITZ: I am not sure if that is true Pat. I think they want to donate it. In the emails I got from them they do want to donate it.

PAT POWER: Yeah they want to donate it but they haven't donated it. When they donate we will have to...

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: So they are waiting to hear back from us to see if they want to accept it.

PAT POWER: That is correct.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Brown?

ALD BROWN: Mayor, I just think there is an interest in the 7th Ward in accepting this as a donation. We control the bowling alley now. We are not getting any taxes on that lot anyway, so I don't see why we wouldn't accept it because we are looking at developing that side of two. That would be two lots...the corner of Hobbie and Court and this lot to market would be great things.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Did you make a motion to accept the recommendation?

ALD BROWN: I will make the motion to accept the interest. Like Pat said, there is no donation right now but I motion that we

accept the interest that we would want the property donated.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderman Brown.

ALD TETTER: Second Your Honor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Tetter. Any further discussion? Alderman Baron...

ALD BARON: Can we also discuss that our acceptance be contingent upon a clean title not any large judgments against it?

PAT POWER: That is absolutely correct, the only lien would not be eliminating would be ours. So we will be forgoing that.

ALD BARON: So can you make hat a part of the motion?

ALD BROWN: Yes, Yes...just amend it

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: We have a motion by Alderman Brown and a second by Alderman Tetter. Any further discussion? Alderwoman Kennedy?

ALD KENNEDY: I have a quick question. Is there any interest so far in that area if we were to assume that property? Do we have anyone that might be interested in developing that area?

PAT POWER: I have had a couple calls but frankly not serious...

ALD TETTER: Your Honor?

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Tetter?

ALD TETTER: I would like to speak briefly to that matter. There are some interested parties as we all are aware. Ricky Rockets project is coming along within the next 30-60 days and that is the gateway into our community. Property on a heavily traveled corridor makes it incredibly attractive to private investors and there has been some. I will share with you Alderwoman Kennedy, if you like...

ALD KENNEDY: Okay, Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: No further discussion, Roll Call...

CLERK DUMAS:

AYES: Tetter, Brown, Curtis, Baron, Lewis,
Tall, Faford, Crawford, Osenga, O'Brien, Gall,
Malone Marshall, Kennedy
(13) Ayes (0) Nays

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION HONORING THE KANKAKEE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM AS THE 2017-2018 ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (IHSA) CHAMPIONS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion carries. There are no appointments on the agenda. Finally, our patient ladies. We have a resolution honoring the Kankakee High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team As the 2017-2018 Champions. Please come up... You all have been very patient. I hope you learned a lot today because girls can be athletic and smart. I just want to say I had an opportunity to see you all play this evening and you all are awesome. I was so excited to see you all play... We are very proud of you! So we are starting with resolution 2018-10. I forgot to have our City Clerk, Anjanita Dumas share why this is of great significance. Anjanita, are you there?

CLERK DUMAS:

Yes, I'm here.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: You all she's going to explain the significance.

CLERK DUMAS:

First, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you on your win this year. We appreciate all the hard work that you have endeared this entire season. One of the reasons we even pass resolutions or even write them in the City of Kankakee... Any resolution that has actually passed, adopted and read and recorded in our meetings becomes a part of our archives and with the City forever. So therefore your children's children can always come back, research your name and look you up within the City of Kankakee and be able to see all the things that you have accomplished with Kankakee High School so Congratulations for a job well done.

KHS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM: Thank you.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Girls Rock! WHEREAS, their 23-8 seasonal record is the highest total in school's history; this is truly a feat to be admired by all parents, alumni and fans of the Kankakee

High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team. This achievement has renewed a sense of pride and recognition to the faculty, administration, coaches and students of Kankakee School District 111; and WHEREAS, Kankakee High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team came in Fifth place during the Bobby Bolton Richards Thanksgiving Tournament and placed second in the Peotone Christmas Tournament. The achievements of the Kankakee High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team represents a testament of distinctive endeavors that are being achieved by its youth throughout Kankakee County. Under the guidance of Head Coach John Maniatis and Assistant Coaches; Abigail Ragsdale, Curt Crossley, Jevon Wesby and Joshua Lindstrom, they were able to accomplish their goal; and WHEREAS, the Kankakee High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team had an impressive season; they placed second in the Southland Athletic Conference Illinois High School Association Regional Champions for the first time since 1994. The team received first place in the Illinois High School Association Sweet Sixteen and were named Illinois High School Association Sectional Champions. This team has impressively achieved this by becoming the first in the school's history as the recipient of these two awards, declaring them as the Illinois High School Association Elite Eight. The excellence demonstrated by this team provides strength, encouragement, hope, and guidance, thus serving as a reminder to athletic programs in the City of Kankakee and throughout Kankakee County to greater heights; and WHEREAS, on behalf of the City of Kankakee, we would like to acknowledge each individual player for exhibiting the character and sportsmanship each athlete displayed on and off the court. Congratulations to the 2017-2018 Kankakee High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team Taylor Alberti, Sierra Anderson, Breia Barry-White, Melanie Cerna, Jocelynn Crowell, Kae'La Jackson, Tabetha Jones, Keshaua Pitts, Naeona Thomas-Hill, LoRyelle Robinson, Monique Sextion, Jennifer Sotello, Laci Walker and Tamia Wilburn, for establishing its basketball team as enviable in competitive competition throughout the State of Illinois; and THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong and the City Council of the City of Kankakee, Illinois do join together to commend and proudly congratulate the Kankakee High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team as the 2017-2018 Illinois High School Association (IHSA)

Champions. Adopted this 19th day of March, 2018. May I have a motion to approve the resolution.

ALD KENNEDY: So Move Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motioned made by Alderwoman Kennedy.

ALD LEWIS: Second

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded Alderwoman Lewis. All in favor...

COUNCIL: Aye.

ALDERMEN COMMENTS

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed? Congratulations! We will get those resolutions printed and signed and over to you very soon. We have no need for Executive Session. Aldermen Comments...Alderman O'Brien?

ALD O'BRIEN: Thank you Mayor. I want to remind everyone that the Ordinance Committee Meeting schedule for March we won't have it, it's cancelled. Our next meeting will be April 24th.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderman O'Brien. Alderwoman Kennedy?

ALD KENNEDY: I just want to...there have been concerns in reference to some of the signs pertaining to different positions placed on City property...so any signs for people campaigning for positions hopefully they will be removed after tomorrow but we will see.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Thank you Alderwoman Kennedy. Anyone else? Alderman Tetter?

ALD TETTER: The Economic Development Committee meeting for this Thursday has been cancelled.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Anyone else? Okay...at least have an opportunity to meet and say hello to him. I also want to extend condolences to Alderwoman Kennedy and her family. If there are no other comments, may I have a motion to adjourn?

ALD TALL: Mayor before you adjourn...with the Planning Driector, have we talked about the ...FEMA? WE only have a short time on the FEMA grant.

MR. FRANK KOEHLER: I am just getting up to...I will get on that and see where stands. I will work with the Mayor.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Alderman Tall if you could see me after the meeting...okay... Motion to adjourn...

ALD LEWIS: So move.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Motion made by Alderwoman Lewis.

ALD TETTER: Second by Alderman Tetter.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Seconded by Alderman Tetter.

COUNCIL: Aye.

MAYOR WELLS-ARMSTRONG: Opposed same sign. We are adjourned.